

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the
3 textured surface of the hub having a surface roughness exceeding a flying height of
4 the tape.

1 2. The tape guide of Claim 1, wherein the surface roughness exceeds 1.0
2 microns.

1 3. The tape guide of Claim 1, wherein the surface roughness is between
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1 4. A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the
3 surface texture comprising a circumferential texture that includes a series of
4 scratches similar to that achieved by placing sand paper against a turning tape
5 guide with no lateral motion.

1 5. The tape guide of Claim 4, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a
2 flying height of the tape.

1 6. The tape guide of Claim 4, wherein the surface roughness is between
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1 7. A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the
3 surface texture comprising a cross hatched texture that includes an array of
4 crossing scratches similar to that achieved by moving sand paper laterally back and
5 forth against a slowly turning tape guide.

1 8. The tape guide of Claim 7, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a
2 flying height of the tape.

1 9. The tape guide of Claim 7, wherein the surface roughness is between
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1 10. A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the
3 surface texture comprising a sputter texture that includes an array of small bumps
4 similar to that achieved by sputter depositing a texture material on to the surface of
5 the hub.

1 11. The tape guide of Claim 10, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a
2 flying height of the tape.

1 12. The tape guide of Claim 10, wherein the surface roughness is between
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1 13. A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the
3 surface texture comprising a laser texture that includes an array of surface
4 irregularities produced by melting and recrystallizing tiny areas on the surface of the
5 hub surface similar to that achieved with techniques used to produce laser textured
6 recording disks.

1 14. The tape guide of Claim 13, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a
2 flying height of the tape.

1 15. The tape guide of Claim 13, wherein the surface roughness is between
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.

1 16. A tape guide, comprising a hub having a textured surface over which a
2 tape passes and spaced apart parallel flanges extending out from the hub, the

3 surface texture comprising a machined texture that includes a series of ridges on
4 the surface of the hub similar to a knurled surface.

1 17. The tape guide of Claim 16, wherein the surface roughness exceeds a
2 flying height of the tape.

1 18. The tape guide of Claim 16, wherein the surface roughness is between
2 1.0 microns and 3.0 microns.